

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1985

EUR/EE FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E.O 021L60 N/A
TAGS: PINT, CSCE10, SHUM, CZ

SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 STATEMENT OF JUNE 30

REF: PRAGUE 1904

1. IN ADDITION TO DOCUMENT NO. 12 (REFTEL). CHARTER 77
GROUP ISSUED SHORT STATEMENT JUNE 30 WHICH WE HAVE NOW TRANSLATED
AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE - ON JUNE 30, 1977 THE PERIOD OF APPEAL
EXPIRED FOR MANY CITIZENS DISMISSED FROM WORK IN CONNECTION WITH
CHARTER 77. COURTS OF FIRST INSTANCE APPROVED THEIR DISMISSALS,
IN THE PROCESS VIOLATING IN MANY CASES NOT ONLY THE SPIRIT
BUT THE LETTER OF THE LAW (FOR EXAMPLE, BY ALTERING THE
GROUNDS OF APPEAL, WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE LEGAL CODE, NOT EVEN
THE EMPLOYER IS ALLOWED TO DO). AS A RESULT OF THIS, THERE
ARE NOW APPROXIMATELY 100 CITIZENS WITHOUT PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT,
WHICH IS AT VARIANCE WITH CZECHOSLOVAK LAWS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
UNDERTAKINGS OF OUR REPUBLIC. SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN FIRED
TWO OR THREE TIMES SINCE JANUARY, ALWAYS AFTER THE EXPIRATION
OF THE MONTH-LONG TRIAL PERIOD, AND, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM SUCH
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WORK AS THAT OF CATTLE-HERDER. MANY OF THEM DO NOT HAVE, EVEN
IN THEIR FAMILIES, ANOTHER SOURCE OF SUBSISTENCE, ON TOP
OF WHICH THEY ARE NOW FORCED TO PAY COURT AND LAWYERS' FEES.
WITH A VIEW TO THE FACT THAT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THERE DO NOT
EXIST UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND THAT NOT EVEN THE TRADE UNIONS
ARE SUPPORTING THEIR MEMBERS, WHO FOR LONG YEARS HAVE BEEN
PAYING DUES AND SOME OF THEM ACTUALLY THROWN OUT OF THE TRADE

UNIONS (ROH), IT IS NATURAL THAT SIGNERS OF CHARTER 77, ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITIES, ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN LEFT WITHOUT MEANS. MANY CITIZENS WHO DID NOT SIGN CHARTER 77 ARE ALSO CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE. CHARTER 77, HOWEVER, IS NOT AN ORGANIZATION AND WE CANNOT FOR THAT REASON SET UP A BANK ACCOUNT. IT IS POSSIBLE ONLY TO RELY ON THE TRUST WHICH WE HAVE REPEATEDLY WITNESSED IIN THE INFORMAL TIES BETWEEN PEOPLE.

JUNE 30, 1977 PROF. DIR. JIRI HAJEK DRSC
END QUOTE SPOKESMAN FOR CHARTER 77

3. DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS CZECH TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT, WHICH STRIKES US AS SIGNIFICANT PRIMARLY BECAUSE IT REAFFIRMS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD CHARTER 77'S CLAIM NOT TO BE AN ORGANIZATION, AND BECAUSE IT INDICTS CZECHOSLOVAK LABOR UNIONS FOR NON-SUPPORT OF MEMBERS IN DIFFICULTIES.
FROWICK

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